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# COMMERCIAL/RECREATION Water-Use Restrictions PHASE IV

JANUARY 29, 2001

## The South Florida Water Management District

is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

### NOTE

This document represents a summary of PHASE IV Water-Use Restrictions as they apply to **commercial/recreation use**. For more details, or for a copy of the Water Shortage Rule, contact the South Florida Water Management District at 1-800-662-8876 or visit our web site at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

## Water Shortages

Water shortages and water conservation fall under the District's mission for water supply.

South Florida depends upon rainfall for its water supply. While South Florida gets 55-60 inches of rain a year, the rainfall is seasonal, falling mostly in the summer and fall. The rainfall is also cyclical, meaning there are typically 10-year cycles of drought and flood.

To manage water shortages in an organized and efficient manner, the District has adopted a Plan and a Rule to restrict water use when supplies fall short. (Sec. 373.246, F.S.; Ch. 40E-21, F.A.C.). The goal is to protect the remaining supply by conserving water, preventing saltwater intrusion and assuring a fair distribution of available supplies.

## Water-Use Restrictions

The District has established specific water-use restrictions according to the severity of the water shortage – PHASE I, **moderate**; PHASE II, **severe**; PHASE III, **extreme**; and, PHASE IV, **critical** – each requiring an increasingly larger reduction in water use. The District correlates each phase of the restrictions to the overall percentage of reductions needed. PHASE IV aims to have a 60 percent reduction in water use. Prior to the declaration of mandatory water-use restrictions, the District typically alerts the public by issuing a "warning." Under a water shortage warning, residents are asked to conserve water voluntarily.

## General Guidelines

- All wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited.
- Essential services involving public health and safety, such as fire-fighting, are not restricted.

• Water-use restrictions DO NOT apply to the use of treated wastewater (reuse water), desalinated water or water from aquifer storage and recovery wells.

• Water-use restrictions DO NOT apply to low-volume irrigation using equipment or devices that apply water directly to the root area of a plant.

• Water-use restrictions generally DO apply to water from private wells and all surface waters such as canals, lakes, ponds and rivers.

• Any exemptions from the restrictions must be through a formal process, that is, by obtaining a variance from the District.

## Water Users

Water users are grouped into categories according to use – residential, agricultural, industrial, recreational, etc. – and, according to the source from which the water comes. Residential users are the largest user-group affected by water restrictions.

## Commercial/Recreation Water-Use Restrictions PHASE IV Summary

Low volume water use for irrigation, mobile equipment washing, and hand watering is permitted anytime, with voluntary reduction.

Low volume methods include:

**Irrigation:** Using equipment designed to limit watering to plant requirement.

**Mobile Equipment Washing:** Using bucket and sponge or hose with automatic shut-off nozzle.

**Pressure Cleaning:** Using equipment designed to reduce inflow volume as accepted by industry standards.

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## Irrigation Systems (cleaning, adjusting, repairing) \* Licensed Individual/Company

### • Less Than One Acre:

Watering is permitted 10 minutes per zone per week.

### • One or More Than One Acre:

Watering is permitted one hour per acre per week.

*\* For recreation areas, golf courses, nurseries, and other agricultural uses refer to the Water Shortage Rule.*

## Landscape Watering Licensed Individual/Company

- Same schedule as residential landscape watering.

## Pesticide Application

### Licensed Individual/Company - Voluntary Reduction

- Application is permitted anytime. Pesticide technician must be on premises when water is applied.

## Mobile Equipment Washing

### Commercial Establishment - Voluntary Reduction

- Washing is permitted from **8 a.m.-3 p.m.** Limited to 75 gallons or less per vehicle for cars, vans, and small trucks (under 10,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight).
- Large trucks (over 10,000 lbs.) limited to 150 gallons or less.

## Mobile Equipment Washing

### Licensed Individual/Company - Voluntary Reduction

- Washing/detailing is permitted anytime using low volume methods.

## Nurseries

- Low volume irrigation and hand watering is voluntarily reduced.
- **Inside** overhead irrigation is permitted on odd-numbered calendar days, **8 a.m.-4 p.m.**
- **Outside** overhead irrigation is permitted on odd-numbered calendar days, **2 a.m.-7 a.m.**
- Moisture stress relief for containerized nursery stock (one gallon or less) is permitted daily, 10 minutes per irrigation zone:  
**11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.(noon), 1:30-2 p.m., and 3:30-4 p.m.**
- Flood irrigation is permitted 2 days per month.

## Agriculture

- Low volume irrigation and hand watering is voluntarily reduced.
- Overhead irrigation (including portable volume guns) is permitted daily, **7 p.m.-7 a.m.**

- Moisture stress relief for field-grown citrus nursery stock is permitted daily, 10 minutes per irrigation zone:

**11:30 a.m.-12 p.m (noon), 1:30-2 p.m., and 3:30-4 p.m.**

- Soil flooding is permitted **ONLY** for vegetable seed planting, rice planting, burning of sugarcane prior to harvest, and to permit harvesting of sod, with voluntary reduction.

## Golf Courses

- Low volume irrigation and hand watering is voluntarily reduced.
- Watering **greens** is permitted during non-daylight hours. Watering **front nine tees** is permitted Saturday and **back nine tees** Sunday during non-daylight hours.
- Watering **front** nine fairways, roughs, and non-playing areas is permitted Saturday: **4 a.m.-7 a.m.**
- Watering **back** nine fairways, roughs, and non-playing areas is permitted Sunday: **4 a.m.-7 a.m.**
- Watering newly seeded and/or sprigged areas (planted for less than 30 days) is **prohibited**.

## Recreation Areas

- Watering new or existing landscaping permitted during residential landscape watering schedule.
- Watering newly seeded and/or sprigged areas (planted for less than 30 days) on **less than five acres** is permitted Saturday, **6 a.m.-7 a.m.**
- Watering newly seeded and/or sprigged areas on **five acres or more** is permitted Saturday, **4 a.m.-7 a.m.**
- Watering porous, non-vegetated recreation/sporting surfaces (baseball infields, clay tennis courts and racetracks) is permitted 10 minutes prior to each event using low volume methods.

## Applications for Variances

Users seeking relief from water-use restrictions should file an application that states how the request qualifies for a variance and describes the nature of the relief desired. The applicant must provide reasonable assurances that the variance will not otherwise harm the water resources of the District. Users must conform to water use restrictions until the variance is granted. More information is available at [www.sfwmd.gov/curre/watshort/varInstructions.html](http://www.sfwmd.gov/curre/watshort/varInstructions.html).

– FOR WATER CONSERVATION INFORMATION & MATERIALS –  
Contact the SFWMD at 1-800-662-8876.

This publication is also available on our Water Shortage web site at <http://www.sfwmd.gov/curre/watshort/index2.html>



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